(d) the steps proposed to increase technical monitoring of trains all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Survey of Bhopal-Barkhera-Budhani Ghat rail line

†1905. MISS. ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey of third line between Bhopal-Itarasi-Barkhera Budhani Ghat has been conducted;

(b) if not, whether survey is likely to be conducted for the same and by when; and

(c) the details of the survey if that has been conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Survey for 3rd line between Bhopal and Itarasi *via* Barkhera & Budhani (92 km) has been taken up. Filed studies have been completed. Final report from Railways is expected by Nov., 2006.

Palace on Wheels in Karnataka

1906. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have signed a Memorandum of understanding with the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation for running a luxury tourist train in Karnataka on the lines of Rajasthan's 'Palace on Wheels'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the places to be connected by the proposed train and by when the train is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) This is a joint venture between the Indian Railways and the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC). The proposed itinerary of the train is as below:

Bangalore-Mysore-Hassan-Hospet-Hubli-Dandeli-Goa-Bangalore

No timeframe has been set for launching of the above train.

Frequency of Rajdhani Express to Ranchi

1907. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase frequency of Rajdhani Express train to Ranchi;

(b) the reason for which Government are not increasing its frequency to daily; and

(c) whether there is any plan to start more trains from Ranchi to other metros?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an additional Rajdhani service between New Delhi and Ranchi *via* Daltonganj-Barkakana has been introduced from 11.06.2006 making tri-weekly Rajdhani service between New Delhi and Ranchi. Daily Rajdhani service between Delhi and Ranchi is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) No, Sir. However, it is proposed to introduce Ajmer-Ranchi Garib Nawaj Express *via* Varanasi (weekly) as announced in Rail Budget 2006-07.

Connecting Hazira Port to its Hinterland

1908. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration for connecting Hazira Port to its Hinterland;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to extend the side track for KRIBHCO upto Hazira; and

(c) the time bound programme for completion of the project, if any?